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STATEMENTS CONFLICT

Ike's Spokesmen Appear Confused

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WASHINGTON — Administration spokesmen appear, at least for the moment, to have entered a period of confusion. Conflicting statements on matters of national policy have emanated on a number of specific issues from those in positions of high responsibility and have left both Congress and reporters scratching their heads in some bewilderment.

In addition to the recent Army-Air Force row over national defense policy, administration spokesmen have taken opposite sides on the following issues—

1. Secretary of State Dulles maintains that the Soviet announcement regarding a cut in its military establishment should be taken with great caution and in reality doesn't mean

a thing. Dulles said that from the U.S. standpoint it was better to have the men doing guard duty than to have them making modern weapons in Soviet factories.

The President's special assistant for disarmament, Harold E. Stassen, doesn't see the Soviet military cut-back that way. He sees it as a favorable sign, indicative perhaps of Russia's willingness to undertake further disarmament moves.

At his press conference Wednesday, President Eisenhower declared he had talked to both Stassen and Dulles and that both had sounded logical to him, but whether the country's policy was to accept the pessimism of Dulles or the optimism of Stassen, didn't emerge very clearly.

2. Adm. Lewis L. Strauss, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, strode up to Capitol Hill the other day and told legislators there was no need for a "crash" program to build atomic power plants. He said it was unnecessary to get into a "kilowatt race" with the Russians and that "we are prone to overestimate the Russians."

Strauss' mollifying statements came only two days after Allen W. Dulles, director of the super-secret Central Intelligence Agency, was reported to have told Congress that Russia's atomic power program was definitely ahead of that of the United States. Congressional sources declared that intelligence reports show Russia's atomic energy program "dwarfs the very best anticipated under our own present program."

3. The secretary of the treasury, George M. Humphrey, and the chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, William M.C.C. Martin Jr., are at public loggerheads over current fiscal policies. Humphrey believes the economy is showing deflationary tendencies and is therefore critical of the recent money tightening moves of the Federal Reserve Board.

Martin, on the other hand, emphasizes the inflationary aspects of the present national economy and has ordered a series of hikes in the rediscount rates, price increases which Humphrey told the National Press Club Thursday he did not approve.

It has become here simply a matter of "you pays your money, and you takes your choice," as administration leaders present conflicting views on a variety of issues.